



A REPORT ON THE

AMERICAN LATINO HERITAGE INITIATIVE

2012

One of the goals of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar is to reconnect the American people to both the natural world and to our nation's rich historic and cultural heritage. In support of these interests, and as America's storyteller, the National Park Service is committed to identifying the brave heroes, diverse stories, and historic places that form the proud heritage of our nation.

From the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument in St. Augustine, Florida to the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail in California, the National Park Service is effectively protecting the sites and capturing the stories of the early Spanish explorers and Spanish colonial settlements. But there are many more contemporary stories that deserve to be preserved and told so that all Americans can understand, appreciate, and honor the contributions of Latinos in this country.

We should think of how Latino culture has transformed our urban fabric. Interpretation at urban parks and the consideration of new Latino-themed urban landmarks have excellent potential to enhance inclusiveness.

Juan Bautista de Anza NHT,
California, Arizona

We should look at what we're missing. What, in this great 500-year story of Latino heritage, is not told? What is not represented? How do we honor it in all its breadth and with the participation of the Latino community itself?

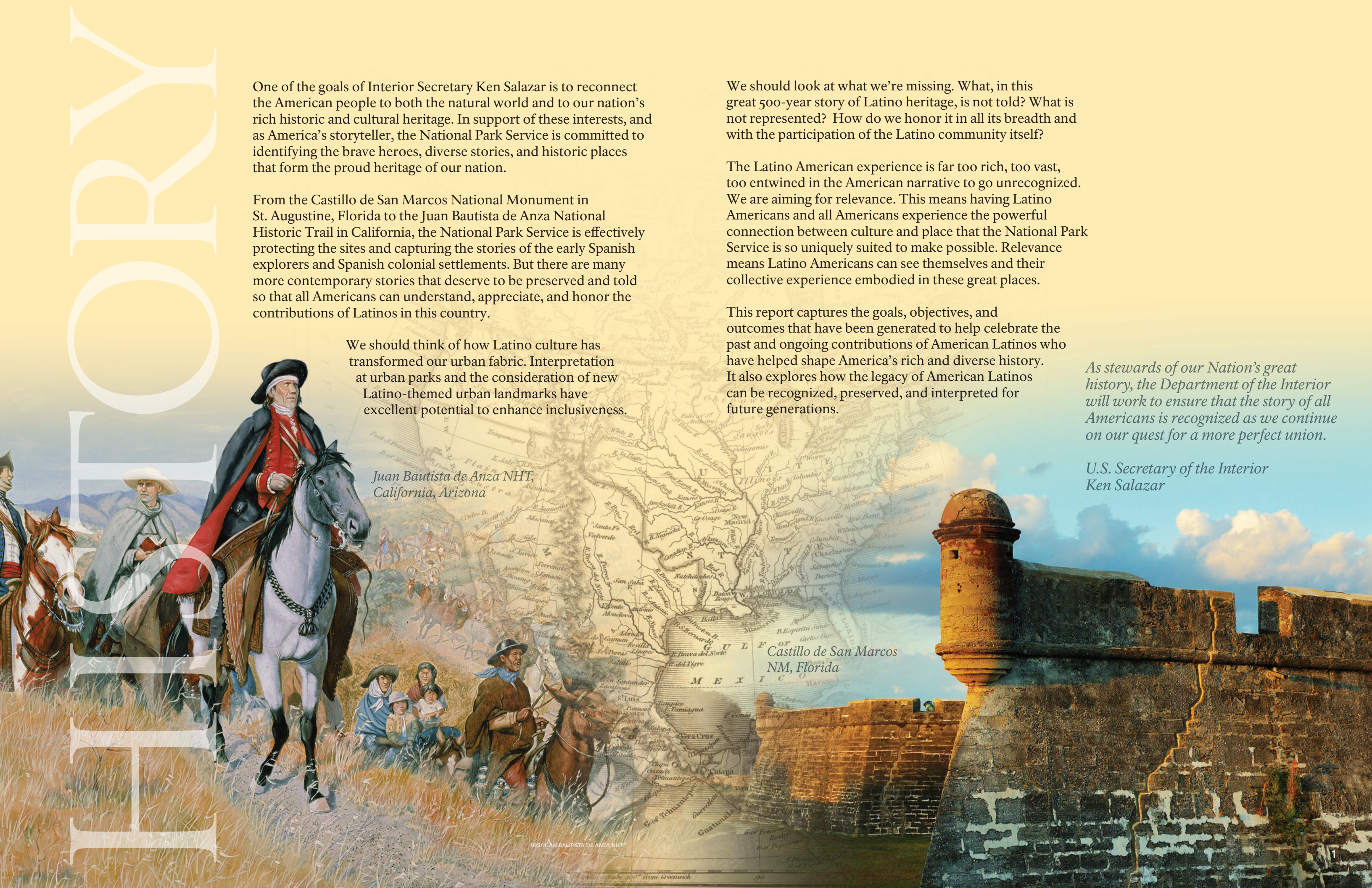
The Latino American experience is far too rich, too vast, too entwined in the American narrative to go unrecognized. We are aiming for relevance. This means having Latino Americans and all Americans experience the powerful connection between culture and place that the National Park Service is so uniquely suited to make possible. Relevance means Latino Americans can see themselves and their collective experience embodied in these great places.

This report captures the goals, objectives, and outcomes that have been generated to help celebrate the past and ongoing contributions of American Latinos who have helped shape America's rich and diverse history. It also explores how the legacy of American Latinos can be recognized, preserved, and interpreted for future generations.

As stewards of our Nation's great history, the Department of the Interior will work to ensure that the story of all Americans is recognized as we continue on our quest for a more perfect union.

U.S. Secretary of the Interior
Ken Salazar

Castillo de San Marcos
NM, Florida



THE LA PAZ FORUM

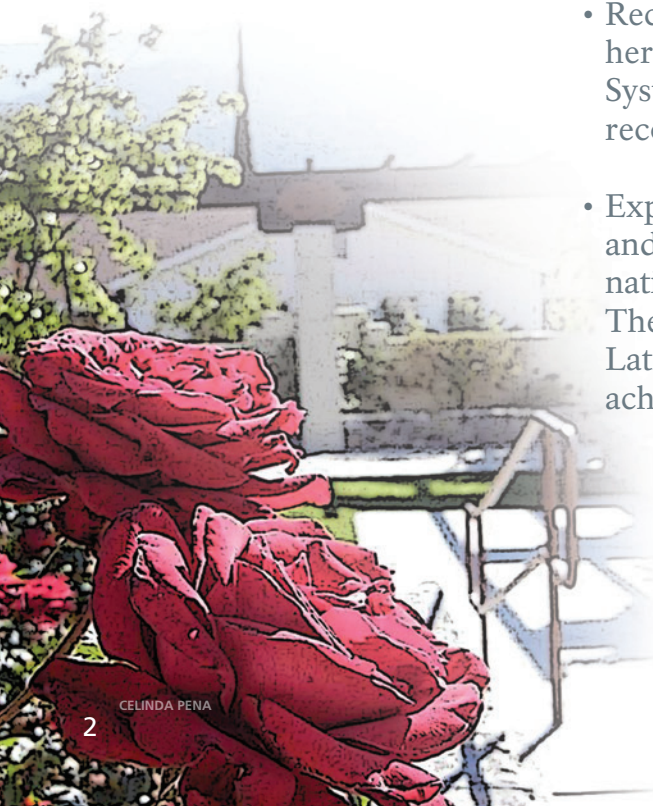
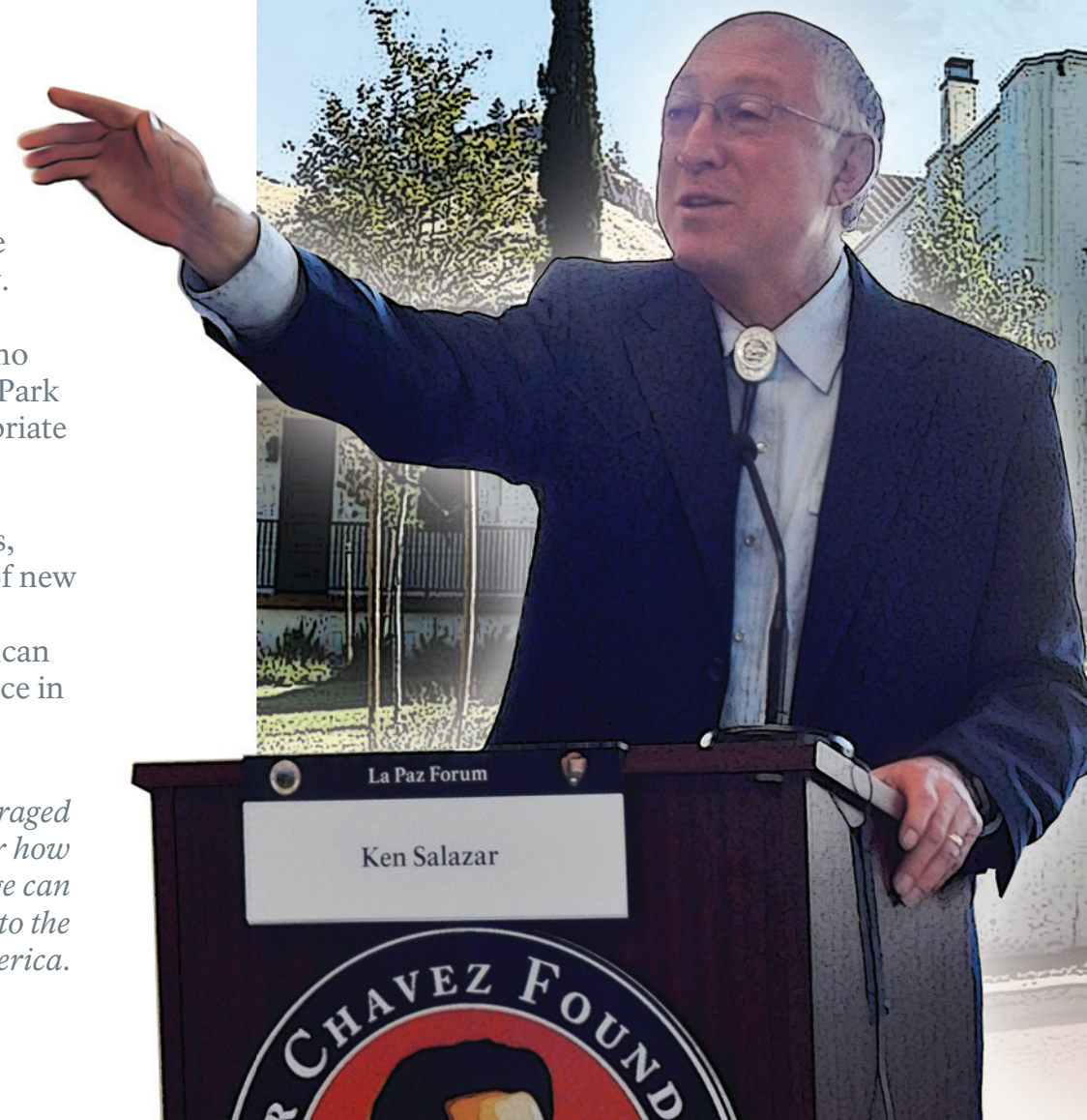
On June 16, 2011, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, and the National Park Foundation hosted a daylong event – the La Paz Forum – to discuss the best ways to recognize and honor past, present, and ongoing contributions of American Latinos. The inaugural meeting was held amid the oaks and spectacular rock outcroppings in California’s Tehachapi Mountains at the National Chavez Center at La Paz in Keene, California – the location where Cesar Chavez lived and labored during his last quarter century.

The purpose of the La Paz Forum was to discuss how American Latino heritage could be better integrated into the story of America. The National Park Service, as a storyteller of our Nation’s past, is in a unique position to connect and amplify American Latino contributions through the National Park System, interpretive services, and potential future sites. Utilizing the knowledge shared at the Forum, the National Park Service will perform the following:

- Initiate an American Latino Theme Study. The study will provide historic contexts on various aspects of Latino history and will identify the missing links to the story of the American Latino people, sites, and history.
- Recommend potential designations significant to Latino heritage as national historic landmarks. The National Park System Advisory Board will evaluate and make appropriate recommendations.
- Expand interpretation at existing Latino Heritage sites, and develop new funding to aid in the establishment of new national park sites and national historic landmarks. The National Park Foundation will establish an American Latino Heritage Fund to assist the National Park Service in achieving this objective.

Secretary Salazar encouraged participants to consider how American Latino heritage can be better integrated into the story of America.

The La Paz Forum was held at the National Chavez Center at La Paz in Keene, California. La Paz was both a headquarters and a refuge for Cesar Chavez in his efforts to organize poor and disenfranchised farmworkers.





THE WHITE HOUSE FORUM ON AMERICAN LATINO HERITAGE

President Obama participated in a forum to help celebrate the contributions of American Latinos to the nation's heritage.

Building on the progress made at the La Paz Forum, on October 12, 2011, the U.S. Department of the Interior hosted President Barack Obama and distinguished guests, to help celebrate the contributions of American Latinos who have shaped the fabric of the American landscape. Cabinet Secretaries, Members of Congress, and other invited guests provided remarks on topics ranging from “Contributions of American Latinos in the American Economy” to “Honoring the Contributions of American Latinos from the Revolutionary War to Iraq and Afghanistan.”

During the Forum, breakout sessions were held with distinguished scholars who were educators in their field of American Latino heritage. Input gathered during the breakout sessions was helpful in shaping the American Latino Theme Study. An earlier meeting was held with the scholars on October 11, 2011 prior to the White House Forum.

The scholars also committed to serve on the American Latino Heritage Scholars Panel in order to advise the National Park System Advisory Board on matters related to the following:

- Development of the American Latino Theme Study, including areas of American Latino history that are underrepresented in the current roster of national parks, national historic landmarks, national historic trails, national heritage areas, and other historic places that fall within the scope of National Park Service responsibilities.
- The panel will make recommendations on locations where this history can be found, including buildings, structures, sites, districts, communities, and other places that may be candidates for official recognition, designation, protection, and interpretation.
- The panel will also assist with the work of other National Park System Advisory Board committees that are focusing on National Park Service relevancy, education, and planning for the future National Park System that reflects the cultural and recreation needs of the 21st century nation.

Creating the American Latino Theme Study

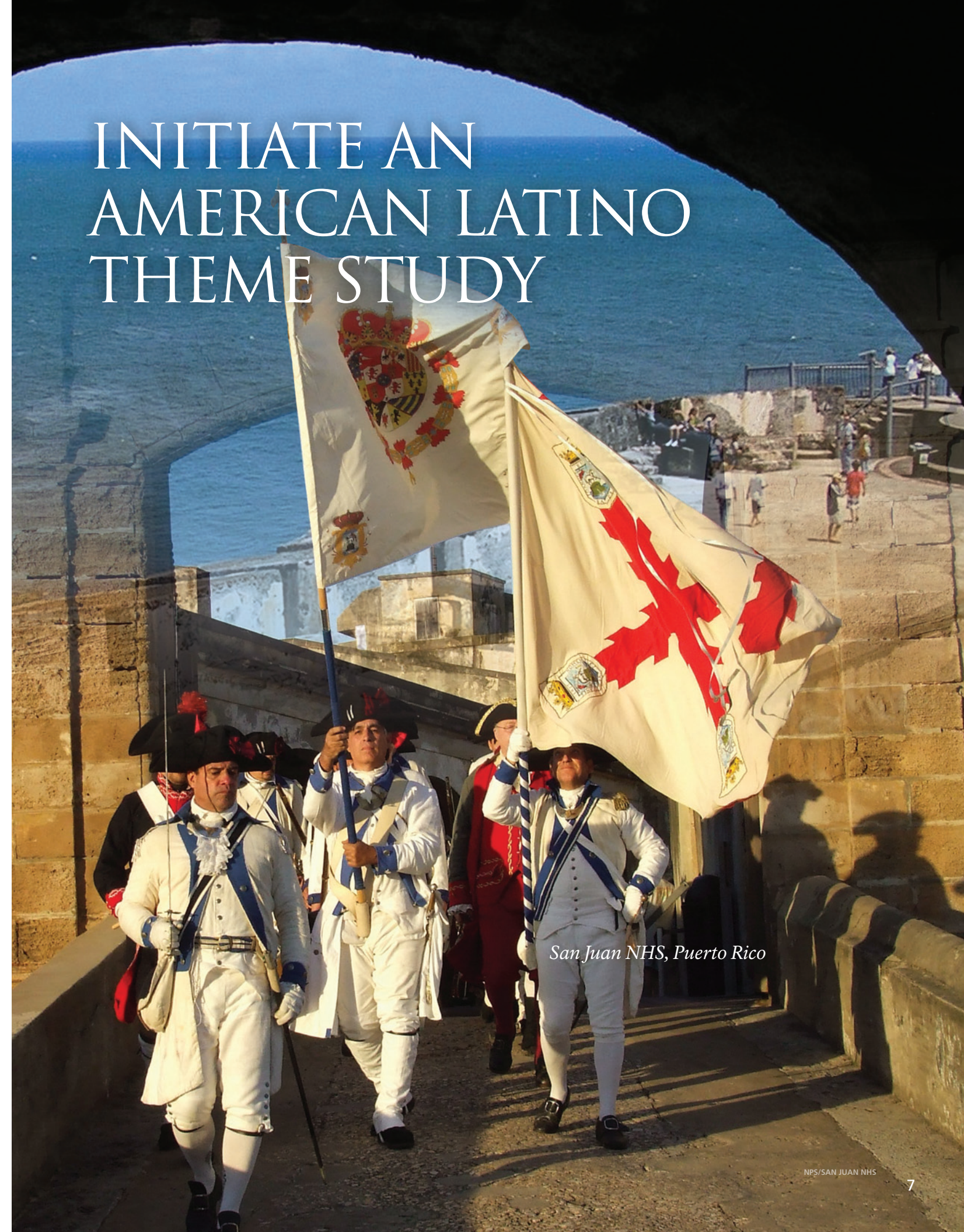
The National Park Service is overseeing the creation of an American Latino Theme Study, which will be developed to assist with the evaluation of individual properties for their eligibility for designation as a National Historic Landmark. The National Park Service will also use this theme study to guide the potential creation of national parks and trails, as well as the broader interpretation of the American Latino experience at its existing national parks. In addition, the theme study will be used to assist with evaluation, documentation, and interpretation of American Latino history in communities throughout the nation.

The Making of the United States: American Latino Theme Study

THEMES INCLUDE

- EMPIRES, WARS, REVOLUTIONS
- INTELLECTUAL THOUGHT
- DISPLACEMENT, MIGRATION, & IMMIGRATION
- MEDIA
- RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY
- ARTS
- GENDER & SEXUALITY
- SPORTS & LEISURE
- FOOD
- LABOR
- BUSINESS & COMMERCE
- MILITARY SERVICE
- THE COLD WAR
- SCIENCE & MEDICINE
- STRUGGLES FOR INCLUSION
- LATINOS & THE LAW
- EDUCATION

INITIATE AN AMERICAN LATINO THEME STUDY



San Juan NHS, Puerto Rico

RECOMMEND POTENTIAL DESIGNATIONS SIGNIFICANT TO LATINO HERITAGE AS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

The NPS will pursue World Heritage Site status for San Antonio Missions NHP in Texas and other places such as the Alamo. Pictured here is the church at Mission Concepción.

Designating National Historic Landmarks

The following properties will be presented for consideration by the Landmarks Committee at the Spring 2012 meeting. They include:

- **U.S Court House and Post Office (Court House for the Southern District of California), Los Angeles, CA**

Between 1945 and 1946, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California became an exceptionally important site in the annals of postwar American school desegregation efforts and the civil rights history of Mexican and Mexican-American people in the Southwest. The decision in *Mendez v. Westminster School District* (1946), forbade segregation on the grounds that separate was not equal.

- **Hispanic Society of America Complex, New York, NY**

With the founding of The Hispanic Society of America in 1904, Archer Milton Huntington created an institution which directly encouraged the promotion of all cultures associated with the Iberian Peninsula (including those in South America) at a period when these areas were only beginning to receive scholarly attention. The Hispanic Society of America was established as a library, research center, and museum promoting scholarship on Hispanic culture.

- **Admiral Farragut Gravesite, New York, NY**

The Admiral Farragut gravesite is significant as the most intact surviving property known to be directly associated with Hispanic Civil War Admiral David Glasgow Farragut (1801-1870). He is universally recognized by current military historians as one of the most accomplished naval officers in American naval history, as well as one of the finest naval commanders who fought for either side during the Civil War.

OTHER ACTIONS INCLUDE:

- Issuance of a National Park Service report identifying a number of important American Latino historic and cultural sites in the San Luis Valley and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of southern Colorado and northern New Mexico worthy of consideration for inclusion in the National Park System;
- The advancement of the National Museum of the American Latino on the National Mall with the Commission's issuance of a final report, and the introduction of legislation in Congress; and
- Actively pursuing World Heritage Site status for the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, including the Alamo, during the next available round of nominations in 2012. The four missions comprising the park are the single largest concentration of Spanish Colonial resources in the United States.



NPS HABS/HAER/HALS
PROGRAM/ALEXANDER MATOV

HABS/HAER/HALS documentation of sites such as Mission San Jose de Laguna, in Valencia, New Mexico pays tribute to Latino Americans by documenting and recording sites and structures that help to illustrate their contributions to American history and achievement.

Examples of American Latino Heritage Initiative activities in national parks include:

Big Cypress National Park & Preserve, FL

Staff created the “Common Ground Center” in partnership with America Verde to bring Latinos to the park for events and volunteer activities such as exotic vegetation removal and endangered species counts with a goal of providing the Latino community with a sense of ownership and belonging.

Cabrillo National Monument, CA

Monument staff is creating a “thread” linking stories from Latino themed parks to bring parks and their shared history together; is expanding educational program to schools without funds for park visits, and is bringing more rangers into schools to connect with teachers, students, and community. Additionally, staff is producing a curriculum-based education program about Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo to be presented aboard the ship “San Salvador” which is currently under construction.

*Living historian
Al Wolfing
portrays explorer
Juan Rodriguez
Cabrillo who arrived
in what is today,
California, in 1542.*

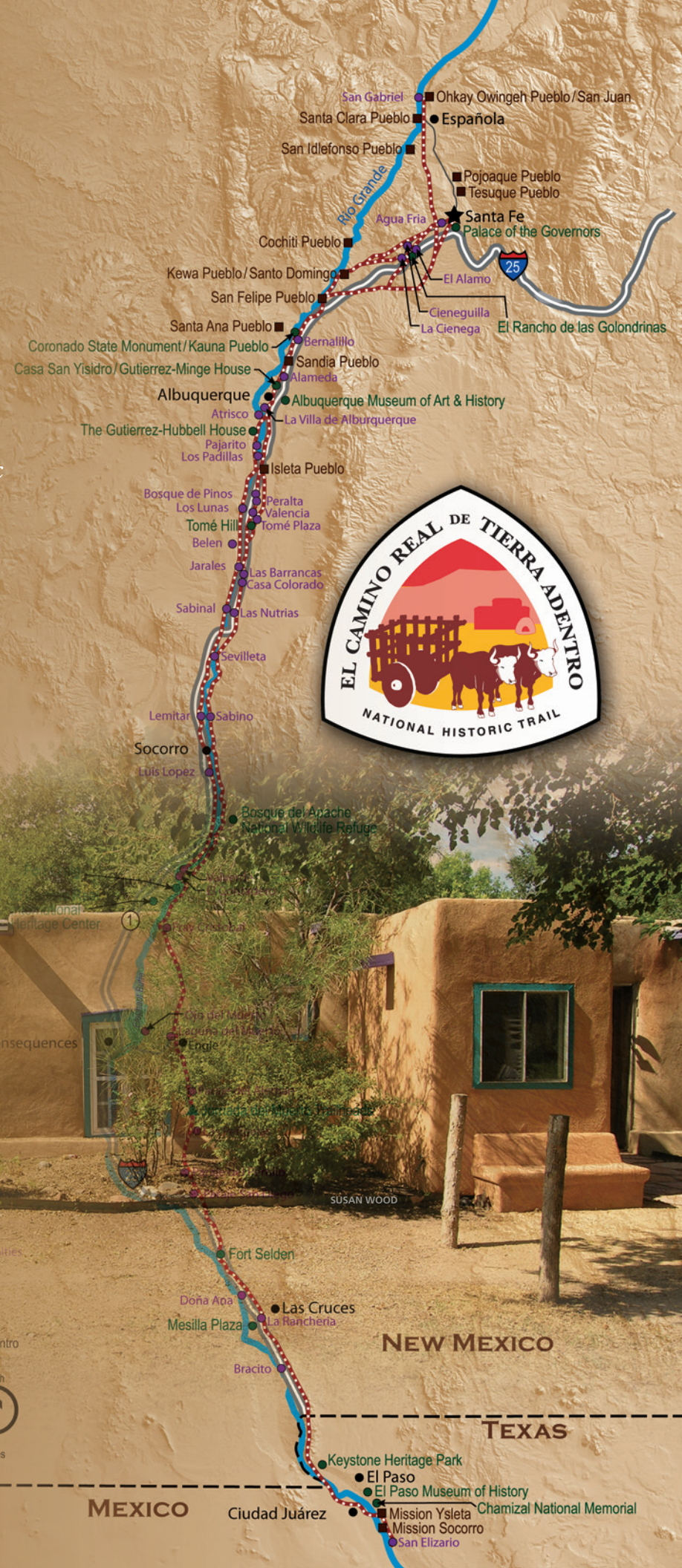


NPS/CABRILLO NM

EXPAND INTERPRETATION AT EXISTING LATINO HERITAGE SITES, AND DEVELOP NEW FUNDING TO AID IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NATIONAL PARK SITES AND NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

Big Cypress NP&P, Florida

An online travel itinerary will help visitors appreciate the 17 historic sites, such as the Gallegos-Montoya House, along today's Camino Real. The trail is a good way to experience a shared heritage and explore the enduring connection to the modern-day peoples of Mexico and Spain.

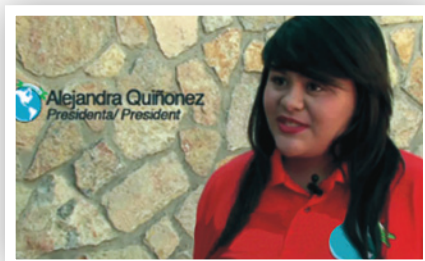


El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail/National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR)

The NPS National Trails Office in Santa Fe is preparing a thematic National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary online experience this year that, in words and photographs, will introduce and guide viewers to the rich history and contemporary culture of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail. The project will include the collection and development of information that will inform and inspire the general public about the value of visiting 17 historic sites along today's Camino Real. It will highlight the Camino Real as a way to experience the shared cultural history and heritage of New Mexico and West Texas and explore their enduring connections to the modern-day peoples of Mexico and Spain.

The office has developed a scope of work and identified an accomplished local historian, author, and photographer who will be contracted to develop the primary components of the Travel Itinerary. The contract is currently under development. Discussions are also ongoing between NTIR and Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia) to develop an online connection between the completed National Register Travel Itinerary and the World Heritage Listing of over 60 sites on the Camino Real in Mexico in order to provide the binational public with a comprehensive experience and understanding of the Camino Real, and its importance to our shared histories.

TRAILS



CATHERINE LIGHT

Chamizal NM is the first national park unit to form a partnership with PAHO/WHO in the establishment of an Ecoclub.

El Chamizal Ecoclub, TX

Chamizal National Memorial (CHAM) has been working with the Pan American Health Organization, Office for the United States – Mexico Border (PAHO/WHO) on improving the health of the youth in the El Paso/Juarez, Mexico area as well as their quality of life. Along with many partners PAHO/WHO formed a group of young people called the “Ecoclub”.

The Ecoclub is a youth led organization sponsored by PAHO/WHO which promotes the improvement of quality of life; contributes to the well-being of society, preservation of the environment, and the achievement of sustainable local development. The first Ecoclub was created in 1992 in Argentina; currently there are 450 organized groups with a total of 8,500 youths in 32 countries worldwide. The El Paso Ecoclub is the first in the United States, and is now a part of a network with Ecoclubs in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, El Salvador, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, and Mexico. There are Ecoclubs in almost every country all over the world. CHAM is the first national park unit to form a partnership with PAHO/WHO in the establishment of an Ecoclub. PAHO/WHO and CHAM are in the process of finalizing the Memorandum of Understanding.



CATHERINE LIGHT



Archeologists look for evidence of Coronado's encampment at El Morro National Monument.

El Morro National Monument, NM

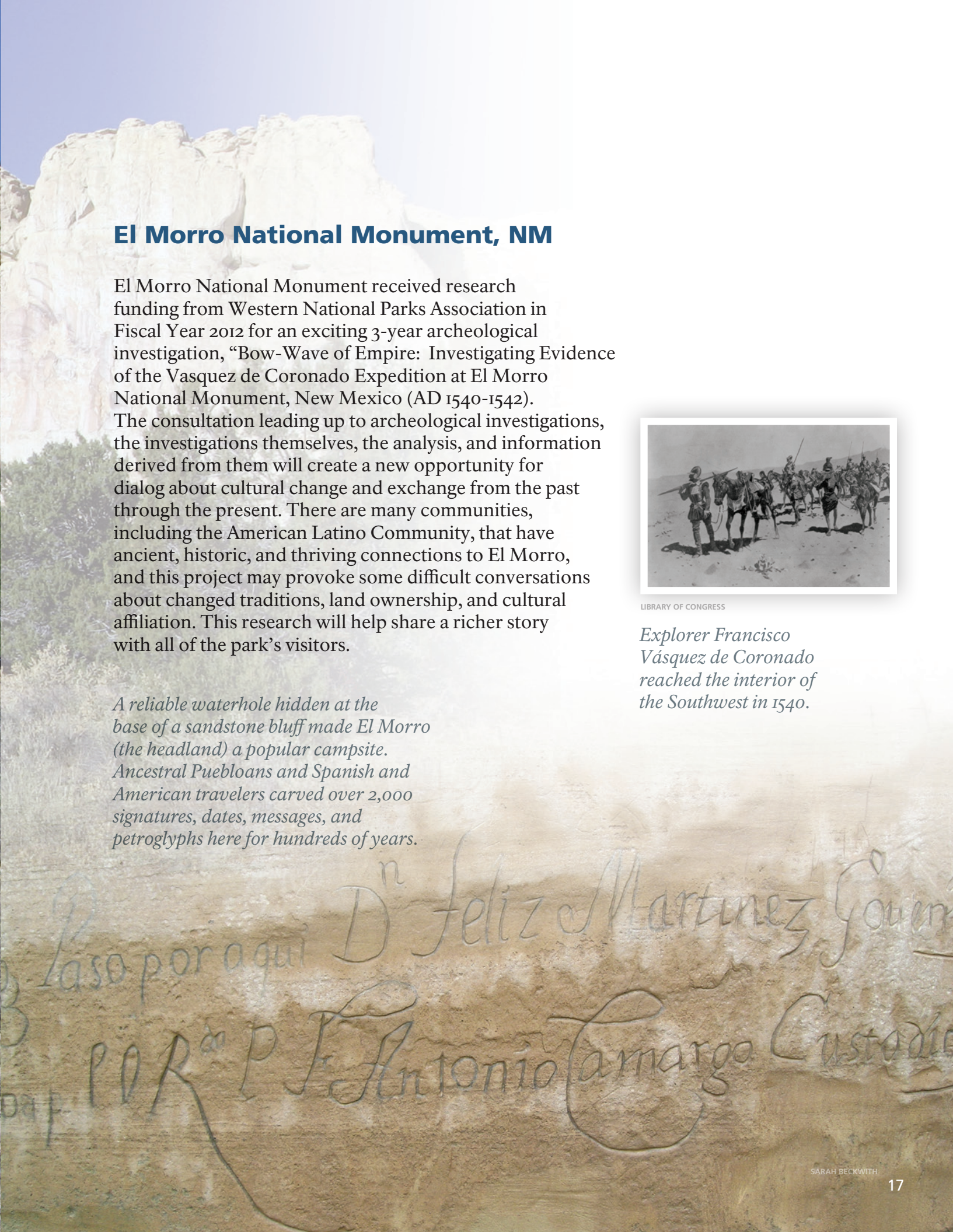
El Morro National Monument received research funding from Western National Parks Association in Fiscal Year 2012 for an exciting 3-year archeological investigation, “Bow-Wave of Empire: Investigating Evidence of the Vasquez de Coronado Expedition at El Morro National Monument, New Mexico (AD 1540-1542). The consultation leading up to archeological investigations, the investigations themselves, the analysis, and information derived from them will create a new opportunity for dialog about cultural change and exchange from the past through the present. There are many communities, including the American Latino Community, that have ancient, historic, and thriving connections to El Morro, and this project may provoke some difficult conversations about changed traditions, land ownership, and cultural affiliation. This research will help share a richer story with all of the park’s visitors.

A reliable waterhole hidden at the base of a sandstone bluff made El Morro (the headland) a popular campsite. Ancestral Puebloans and Spanish and American travelers carved over 2,000 signatures, dates, messages, and petroglyphs here for hundreds of years.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Explorer Francisco Vásquez de Coronado reached the interior of the Southwest in 1540.



SARAH BECKWITH



NPS/DRY TORTUGAS NP

As part of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the Dry Tortugas, the park will work with its concession partner to engage ferry passengers in Ponce de Leon's voyage of discovery.



Children experience their first camping trip while learning about the environment at Everglades NP.



NPS/EVERGLADES NP

Everglades National Park/ Dry Tortugas National Park, FL

Planning is underway for a lecture series leading up to the anniversary of the discovery of Florida, the Keys, and the "Tortugas." The lectures will be coordinated with the Key West 500 Celebration. Six lectures will be hosted at the Florida Keys Eco Discovery Center between March and May 2013. Three lectures will be presented by an NPS historian, an Everglades National Park Cultural Resources specialist, and a Dry Tortugas National Park park interpreter. For the weeks leading up to the anniversary, the park will work with its concession partner to engage ferry passengers in Ponce de Leon's voyage of discovery. Interpretation will focus on the political, social, and physical aspects of the voyage. The park will also work with local grade school students to develop the themes and materials to present to park visitors. With the assistance of the South Florida National Parks Trust, the students will travel to the park to rediscover the Dry Tortugas on the anniversary, on or about May 12, 2013, to commemorate the event.

At Everglades, the park is planning the establishment of a social media network that will be used to encourage park visitors to share their own stories. The opportunity to share experiences will be posted in print media, on the web, and through signs posted on interpretive trails. Visitors will be encouraged to upload/share their photos, videos, written stories, and audio stories. The Park will use this activity to engage the Latino community by posing specific questions or describing known history and asking for thoughts or more information.



Golden Gate NRA, California

Golden Gate National Recreation Area, CA

Staff is working with the San Francisco Department of Public Health and the San Francisco Unified School District to create a “Park Prescriptions” program. This will serve to encourage, inspire, and incentivize families in underserved communities within the San Francisco area to get outdoors and visit parks. Additionally, the park hired a third Spanish-speaking ranger for its Community Outreach team which will deliver programs in Spanish and make visits to schools and organizations in San Francisco neighborhoods with high Latino populations.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park, TX

The park is working with Chamizal National Memorial and the University of Texas at El Paso on recruitment and placement opportunities, and will produce a history of Guadalupe Mountains to include Latino history.

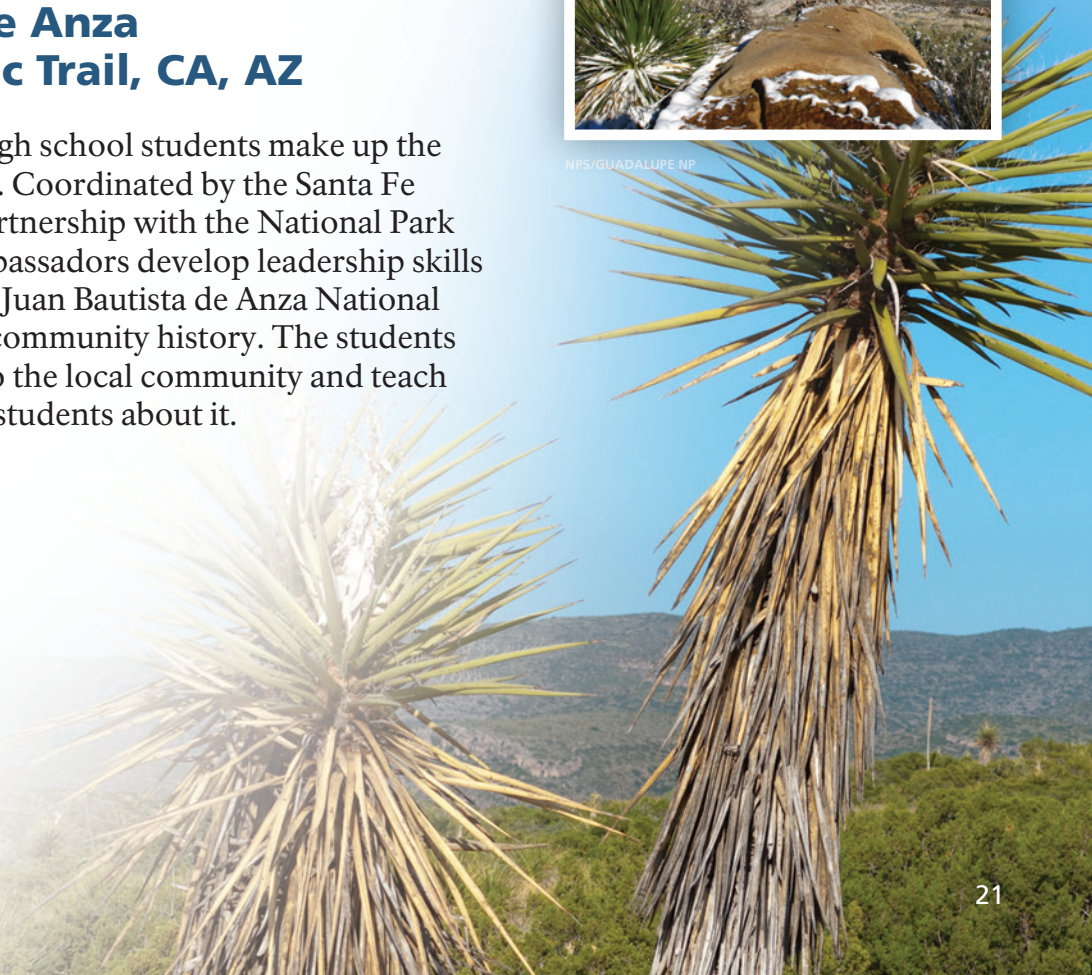
*Guadalupe
Mountains NP, Texas*



NPS/GUADALUPE NP

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, CA, AZ

Nogales, Arizona area high school students make up the Anza Trail Ambassadors. Coordinated by the Santa Fe Ranch Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service, the Student Ambassadors develop leadership skills while learning about the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and their community history. The students present the Anza story to the local community and teach local elementary school students about it.



Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park, TX

The park implemented the Student Ranger service-learning project to train local high school students in NPS interpretive techniques. This program enhances the partnership with Lopez High School in Brownsville, TX, a school where the student body is 99% Hispanic. The majority of these students have never visited Palo Alto, and this project is their first exposure to a park and the National Park Service. This service-learning model will be used with other local high schools. The Student Ranger program also serves as an introductory pathway toward future NPS career choices for these students.

During the fall semester of 2011, the 32 Student Rangers from Lopez High School, studied the Battle of Palo Alto and learned interpretive techniques in order to lead field trips at Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park. Every week, park staff visited the students to practice these techniques. In addition, their teacher reinforced these skills with practice sessions throughout the semester. Additionally, the students took online courses with the Eppley Institute for Public Lands to learn about the history and organization of the NPS. To date, these Student Rangers provided field trips for over 800 local elementary school students. Transportation expenses for both the high school and up to 1,800 elementary students were paid with a National Park Foundation grant. A blog written by the Lopez students is posted to the School Generator Network, and will be added to the park's Facebook page. Students wrote about the importance of the NPS to them and their community.

Thirty-two high school Student Rangers at Palo Alto Battlefield have learned interpretive skills and provided field trips for 800 elementary school students to date. Here, they use games to explain 19th century military techniques.

"The NPS shows our history and culture. With NPS parks we can teach our little brothers and sisters about our history."

Student Ranger Leonarda Garcia

*Palo Alto Battlefield
NHP, Texas*

PRESERVE

The park co-manages the Columbus Landing site with the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources and seeks a clear development plan to preserve and interpret this important part of the nation's heritage.



Salt River Bay National Historical Park & Ecological Preserve, U.S. Virgin Islands

On his 2nd voyage in November of 1492, Columbus's men came ashore at Salt River Bay to a Taino village, which marked the first encounter between native people and Europeans (Spain) in the New World that is now U.S. soil. Today, this site includes the remains of a Taino village and Ceremonial Ball Court. The Taino settlement was a cultural and religious center for the Taino who lived on St. Croix from 700 to the late 1400s. The ball court also signified the importance of the village, and is the only village found in the entire Lesser Antilles with such a site. The site also contains the remains of a triangular earthwork fort that the English began in 1641 and the Dutch finished in 1642. The French called it Fort Flammand and later Fort Salé. It is the only such early fort left in the West Indies, and is potentially the oldest fort in the United States.

The park seeks to maintain the current and historic co-management mandate between the National Park Service and the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources. The National Park Service is committed to the protection, conservation, and recreational development of this area as laid out in that agreement. Since the 1960s, the Government of the Virgin Islands has slated this area for recreational development several times. The National Park Service would seek and implement a clear development plan to maintain the public beach, provide heritage interpretation and preservation, and ensure the safe and responsible use of these public and historic lands.

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, TX

Park staff is creating an “Abuelos y Hijos” Summit to engage the local Latino community, and is partnering with the American Heart Association for a Latino health event at the park.

Columbus leaves Spain in 1492 seeking a trade route to the East Indies. He encounters the “New World” instead.





NPS/SAN JUAN NHS

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San Juan NHS plans to develop a Youth Council with the surrounding communities.

San Juan National Historic Site, Puerto Rico

The park is currently seeking volunteers from the communities of La Perla and Puerta Tierra (Puerto Rico) to develop an agenda and logistics for the first meeting of a youth council. Group size, general expectations, and how the group will function will be discussed at the inaugural meeting. With the opening of the park's Discovery Center, a permanent home is now available for the parks "Little Masons" program. This new program and others were developed to promote stewardship and to increase the awareness of preservation efforts and practices by the National Park Service to local school children as well as those visiting the site.

Spanish Colonial Research Center (proposed to be renamed the NPS Latino History Research and Training Center), NM

The Center will sustain the American Latino Heritage Initiative as the "go-to" place for Latino cultural and natural resource studies, translation, research, training and outreach; will also serve as a resource for training NPS interpreters and researchers on working with and understanding the Latino community.



NPS/SAN JUAN NHS

American Latino Heritage Initiative Brochure

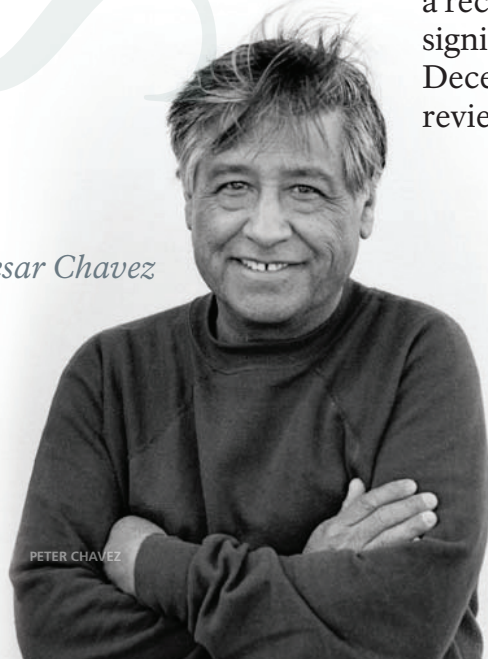
An American Latino Heritage Initiative brochure is being produced to use at conferences, events, etc., and will provide information for the general public. Information will be provided on the initiative, the importance of Latino historic preservation, and how to submit their input. The brochure will be broad in scope, easy to understand, and will contain lists of websites for additional information.

Cesar Chavez Special Resource Study

The NPS Pacific West Region-based study team prepared a draft special resource study report for public review in October 2011. The draft report evaluated the significance of over 100 sites related to the life of Cesar Chavez and/or the farm labor movement in California and Arizona, and explored five different alternatives: A) continuation of current management; B) development of a national network of sites related to Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement; C) a national historic trail following the 1966 Delano to Sacramento march route; D) a national historic site at the Forty Acres property in Delano, CA; and E) a national historical park that would include the Forty Acres and Filipino Community Hall in Delano, Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz in Keene, CA, and the Santa Rita Center in Phoenix, AZ.

After a 30-day public comment period and eight public meetings, the study team revised the report and submitted a final report, a recommendation on a preferred alternative, and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) to the NPS Washington Office on December 15, 2011. The final report is undergoing Departmental review before being transmitted to Congress.

Cesar Chavez



PETER CHAVEZ

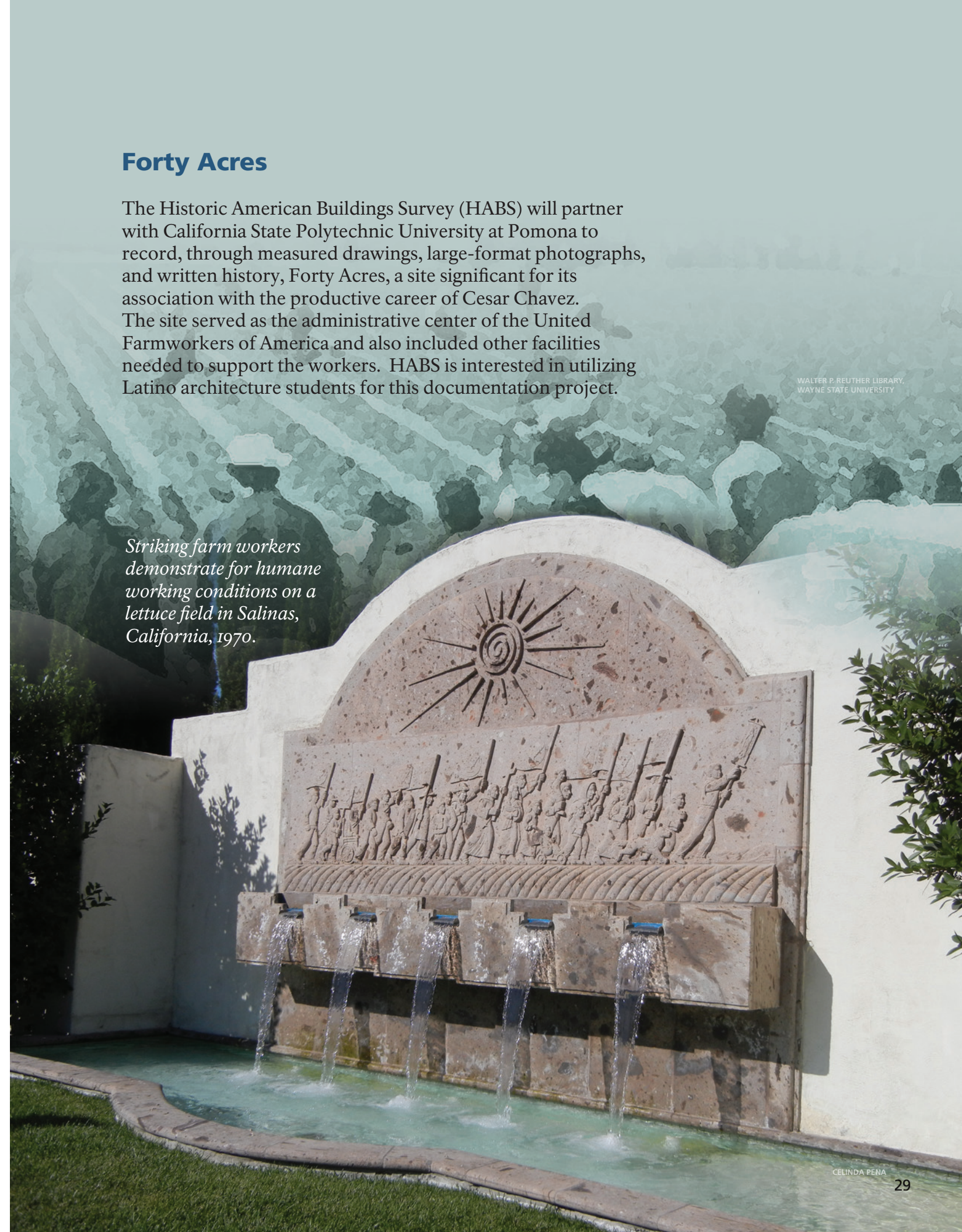
The memorial garden of the Chavez Center at Nuestra Señora Reina de La Paz is the final resting place of Cesar Chavez. "The March" carving depicts the diverse coalition Cesar built during this human rights movement. The five cascades of water memorialize the five people who gave their lives for "La Causa."

Forty Acres

The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) will partner with California State Polytechnic University at Pomona to record, through measured drawings, large-format photographs, and written history, Forty Acres, a site significant for its association with the productive career of Cesar Chavez. The site served as the administrative center of the United Farmworkers of America and also included other facilities needed to support the workers. HABS is interested in utilizing Latino architecture students for this documentation project.

WALTER P. REUTHER LIBRARY,
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Striking farm workers demonstrate for humane working conditions on a lettuce field in Salinas, California, 1970.



CELINDA PEÑA



www.nps.gov/civilwar

Hispanics and the Civil War: From Battlefield to Homefront

The National Park Service's publication and poster have been a tremendous teaching tool for us as we educate school and community groups about the Hispanic community in order to encourage tolerance and understanding... [They] help us dismiss the prevalent attitude that Hispanics are outsiders without a right... to make this their home.

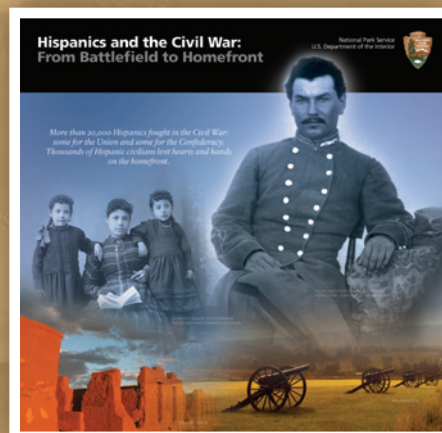
... Any publication that helps our organization tackle prejudice toward the Hispanic community and address the community's role in our nation's history will benefit the community at large.

*Executive Director, El Pueblo,
Jennie Searcy, JD*

The National Park Service is helping to make the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War relevant to Hispanic Americans. *Hispanics and the Civil War: From Battlefield to Homefront*, and the companion posters produced in English and Spanish, were produced to commemorate the struggles, sacrifices, and achievements of Latinos during the Civil War.

Led by the Southeast Region, the publication was written by a team of NPS historians and subject matter experts (to include Hispanics) and reviewed by outside experts in the field. The poster was designed to communicate, at a glance, the breadth of the Hispanic contribution to the war and on the homefront. The publication is richly illustrated, and was prepared as an "easy read" for the general public who may not have a background in the Civil War.

From the opening shots at Fort Sumter to the last land engagement at Palmito Ranch, Texas, the publication will have a profound and lasting impact for readers of all ages within the Hispanic community. The goal of the publication and posters is to encourage school teachers to share a story-line from the publication and prominently display the companion posters as they educate students on the Civil War. As students become informed, they will find meaning, reflection, and a sense of exploration in finding out more about the role and efforts that their ancestors made during one of the most trying times in American history.



*Each of the more than 120 Civil War/
Civil Rights parks Servicewide were
given 100 copies of the publication, along
with several thousand copies of the
companion posters, for outreach to the
high schools and Hispanic organizations
surrounding their sites.*

NPS/SOUTHEAST
REGIONAL OFFICE/
GRAPHIC WORKS

HEROES

Hispanic Heroes

In the 1990s, the National Capital Region (NCR) of the National Park Service, created a brochure entitled "Hispanic Heroes" about the series of statues dedicated to several Latin American Liberators situated along Virginia Avenue, NW in Washington, DC. The statues, given as gifts from the nations of Argentina, Mexico, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela, represent the connections between the nations of the Americas through republican ideals and the striving for independence. "Hispanic Heroes" provided a description of each of the liberators, a map of the locations, and brief introduction to the relationship between the United States and the Spanish colonies that fought for their independence, and eventually made up the nations of Central and South America.

The brochure had been out of print for more than a decade, just as the Latino population in Washington, DC grew and interest in the statues with tourists to the National Mall increased. In partnership with the National Capital Region, the National Mall, and the Cultural Resources Washington Support Office, a team of interpreters and cultural resources specialists revised the brochure. New images of the statues, an enhanced map, new interpretive text, walking tour by cell phone, and QR code that takes those using smart phones to the National Mall website were developed for a new walking tour brochure. Descriptions of other sites along the walking tour include the Organization of American States and the Pan-American Health Organization. The brochure will be printed in English and Spanish, will be available at the National Mall, and will be offered to partner organizations as well.



The brochure, "Hispanic Heroes," is a guide to the statues of Latin American Liberators in Washington, DC. Pictured here are José Artigas of Uruguay (left) and Spaniard, Bernardo Degálvez (above).



NPS/NATIONAL MALL

Latino Education Projects

The National Park Service Cultural Resources Heritage Education Services office is expanding its educational programs to include two Latino Heritage projects:

- **American Latino Heritage – Discover Our Shared Heritage Travel Itinerary**

This itinerary on Hispanic historic places will feature units of the National Park System and national historic landmarks associated with the role of Hispanics in American history.

- **Nationwide Youth Summits – Engaging Hispanic and Other Youth in Historic Preservation**

The Youth Summits will use tools and strategies to help students understand the importance and value of preserving Hispanic historic places and their associated cultural resources. These summits also foster student investment in historic preservation by engaging students in discussions about real-life preservation issues and soliciting their advice on preservation policy.

The National Park Service Interpretation and Education Division has engaged in the following partnership initiatives.

- **U.S. Department of Education Partnerships**

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, the National Park Service will expand and promote Latino Heritage stories and agency content to thousands of educators for use in classrooms and community education. Thousands of National Park Service lesson plans and accompanying classroom materials will be featured in an NPS online education portal for easy access by

President Carter assists rangers in a celebration of Latino Heritage at Jimmy Carter NHS, Georgia

teachers to assist in teaching history standards with audience-relevant content. In addition, the NPS will share and promote expanded access to Latino Heritage education materials by posting materials on iTunes University and other national educators' websites.

- **“Viva La Causa” Education Curriculum**

“Viva La Causa” Civil Rights education resources are under development as part of the National Park Service’s efforts to share and commemorate the Civil Rights Movement in America. As one of the most commonly taught stories of people’s struggles for social justice, the Civil Rights Movement has the capacity to help students develop a critical analysis of United States history and strategies for change. Throughout the 1960s, and the flourishing of the Civil Rights Movement, 900,000 Latinos were facing unequal rights in the United States. New Latinos were encouraged to come to this country through the Immigration Act of 1965. Once these Latinos settled down, they realized there were many new obstacles to overcome in their new home. To overcome hardships such as living below the poverty line, struggling to find low-paying unskilled jobs, facing discrimination, and fighting for education, Latinos created powerful coalitions with black Americans for equal education and fairness in employment.

- **Loreta Janeta Velázquez Documentary**

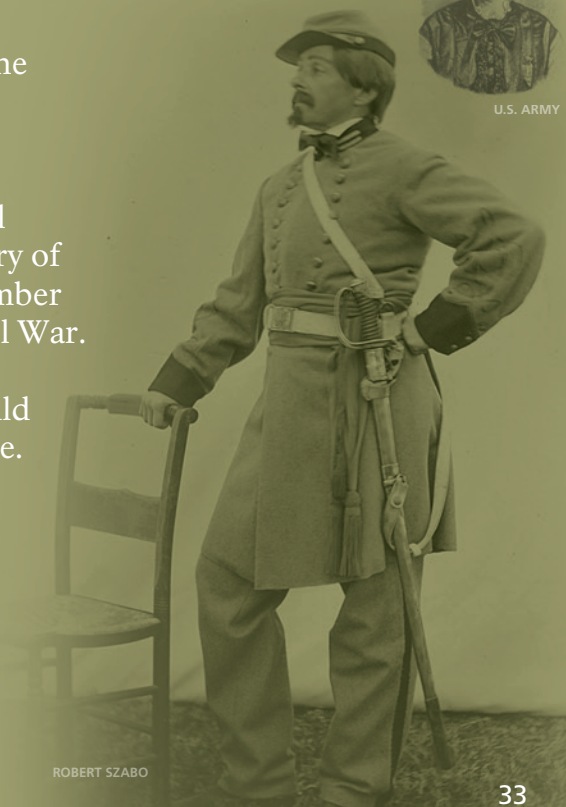
Working in concert with the Southeast Region of the National Park Service, a 5-8 minute film will be produced on Loreta Janeta Velázquez.

This digital story will be produced from a historical documentary entitled “REBEL” which tells the story of Velázquez, a Hispanic woman who fought as a member of the Confederate Army during the American Civil War. Velázquez, who was born in Cuba and grew up in New Orleans, disguised herself as a man so she could fight alongside soldiers at the frontlines of the battle. The documentary would complement the recently released *Hispanics and the Civil War: From Battlefield to Homefront* poster and publication produced by the National Park Service.

Living historian Joyce Henry portrays Loreta Velázquez as Lt. Harry Buford. A number of woman fought in the war disguised as men. Some were discovered when injured, but others went undetected.



U.S. ARMY



ROBERT SZABO



NPS/DE SOTO NM

The Discover Our Shared Heritage Travel Itinerary will feature units of the National Park System and national historic landmarks associated with the role of Hispanics in American history.

Students from Coronado Elementary School share a song of Hispanic heritage with rangers at Juan Bautista de Anza NHT, California, Arizona



NPS/JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA NHT



NPS/JIMMY CARTER NHS





Completed in 1672,
Castillo de San Marcos NM
in St. Augustine, Florida
represents the Spanish heritage
of the city and the nation.

St. Augustine 450th Commemoration Commission

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced the members of the St. Augustine 450th Commemoration Commission. The Commission will plan and carry out programs and activities to mark the 450th anniversary of the city's founding in 1672. Secretary Salazar said, "As stewards of our nation's great history, the Department of the Interior and the Commission will work to ensure that the story of St. Augustine and our Spanish ancestors is recognized and preserved for generations to come."

"The story of St. Augustine is a microcosm of the story of America itself, with a tapestry weaved by Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans as the city developed, changed hands in times of conflict, struggled with issues of justice and equality, and eventually flourished," said Director of the National Park Service Jonathan B. Jarvis. "The members of the commission will ensure that the anniversary will be an opportunity to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the founding and continuing history of the city."

Congress established the Commission as part of the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, and charged it with ensuring a suitable national observance of St. Augustine's 450th anniversary by complementing the programs and activities of the State of Florida and the City of St. Augustine.

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*National Park
Service Director
Jonathan B. Jarvis*

The National Park Foundation's American Latino Heritage Fund

The National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks, will pursue a comprehensive set of initiatives critical to raising the profile of American Latino heritage and increasing Latinos' attendance at national parks and participation in preserving historic places nationwide. Formed in 2011, the American Latino Heritage Fund (ALHF) is dedicated to strategically integrating and celebrating the cultural, economic, and civic contributions of Latinos in the American story as told throughout the national park system and in historic places across the country.

The new initiatives include:

The American Latino Theme Study

ALHF is sponsoring the American Latino Theme Study, which seeks to elevate the national dialogue on the role of American Latinos in the development of the nation. The first iteration of the theme study, to be released in June of 2012, will be a living document that will cover Latino history since the 15th century. Led by the National Park Service and a team of Latino scholars, the theme study will serve as a national model for future reports examining ethnic groups' participation in American history. It will also play a vital role in identifying and evaluating locations relevant to Latino contributions and of historical significance for the National Register of Historic Places, and for National Historic Landmark designation.

Designation of American Latino Landmarks and Historic Sites

The 2010 census counted 50.5 million Latinos in the U.S. Yet despite a 500-year history in North America and the existence of vibrant communities throughout the United States, only a small percentage of the more than 87,000 sites on the National Register of Historic Places explicitly recognize and celebrate our country's ethnically diverse cultures. The National Park Foundation's ALHF will seek to assist the National Park Service in its efforts to identify, document, nominate, and preserve historic places highlighting Latino contributions.

Nationwide Youth Summits

The American Latino Heritage Fund is supporting the National Park Service and the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and its partners on a youth summit in Washington State involving Latino students and teachers in 2012. The summit is designed to educate and involve younger generations in historic preservation in their communities, and will equip teachers and preservation organizations with the tools needed to motivate and engage Latino youth on stewardship of historic places and national parks.



NPS/STONES RIVER NB

A ranger engages Hispanic youth at Stones River NB.

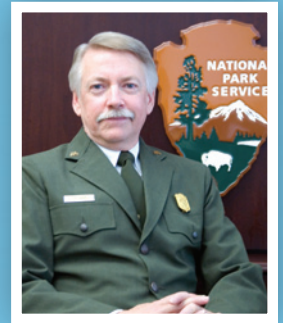


The superintendent welcomes new American citizens at a ceremony in Biscayne National Park, Florida.

THOMAS M. STROM

The National Park Service is the keeper of the American experience, and through the power of place and story, we remind all Americans of our journey so far toward a more perfect union.

NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis



A young boy stands on the same beach where Columbus landed more than 500 years ago.

For his sake, we must ask the questions:

What, in this great 500-year story of American Latino heritage, is not told? How do we honor it in all its breadth and with the participation of the Latino community itself?

*Columbus Landing
in Salt River NHP&EP,
Virgin Islands*

**AMERICAN
LATINO
HERITAGE FUND**



Produced by the NPS Southeast Regional Office of Interpretation & Education with support from the National Park Foundation's American Latino Heritage Fund.